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April 16, 1981

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President, Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Joshua:

Thank you very much for your note.

Let me try to reply to your comments and questions in order:

- 1) I.Q.: If, as you say, several of the Nobelists are not of notably superior intelligence, then the Yale group we used should be statistically comparable to the Nobelists. We don't need the entire group to compare to Arthur Kornberg; all that is necessary, according to probability, is that there be something like two of his I.Q. in the group of 113 (I'm guessing). Did you mean something else than this in your comment about competing with Kornberg's I.Q. or, of course, your own?
- 2) Your comments about synonyms are, as always, to the point. There is an entire category of word association response which includes both antonyms and synonyms and which the linguists call paradigmatic responses. These are responses which can be substituted for the stimulus word, in contrast to syntagmatic responses, which are those found in syntactic contiguity with the stimulus word (e.g. cold - water). Statistically, the synonyms to the stimulus words on the Kent-Rosanoff list are given just as frequently as antonyms and are just as frequent on general language norms of word incidence. Most of the Kent-Rosanoff word stimuli are rather simple with simple and straightforward synonyms. There are, as you say, many types of word classification and much literature on it. I have discussed some of this in the articles enclosed, and also in my recent book, The Emerging Goddess: The Creative Process in Art, Science, and Other Fields. As for the data in the current article, it is merely a brief research report for the American Journal of Psychiatry containing pilot data and is much like a 'letter to the editor' in your field. I shall surely discuss other word classifications when I write up all the control studies I am engaged in.
- 3) I think your theory about fast opposites being repressive is a possible one, but then I'm not clear as to why creative people should use such a

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defense more than others. Even if we assumed that they were more stressed by the test than others, we would expect to find other stereotopies as well. My data indicate that none such occur, quite the reverse, as a matter of fact. There is a tendency to idiosyncrasy on other responses.

The literature on role swapping that I know of is the material on Irving Janis' very interesting work on the use of role reversal as a mode of influencing others. He ran a smoking clinic in New Haven and used role reversals to help people stop smoking. It's a very interesting study but I can't lay my hands on the references right now. I will continue to look for them, and send them to you.

It was really nice to hear from you. I trust all goes well at that wonderful ivory tower on the east side. I am fine here.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Albert Rothenberg, M.D.
Director of Research

AR:fs